

22 December 1965

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 22 December 1965

Mr. Helms was in the chair as Acting DCI.

R. J. Smith reported on the size and weight of attack by sixty-three U. S. Navy aircraft against the Uong Bi power plant this morning. One hundred tons of ordnance were dropped. Three aircraft were lost. Smoke encompasses the target area.

Concerning the recent ORR memo on Cambodia and the DCI's question about disseminating it to DOD officials, Smith reported that the ORR information is being incorporated in an OCI memo being done in answer to a request from McGeorge Bundy's staff.

[REDACTED]

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Smith noted a request put to [REDACTED] by Secretary McNamara yesterday. The Secretary feels our air strikes in North Vietnam are hitting too many new targets and may not be carrying out enough operations against old targets to ensure continuing interdiction and destruction of roads and bridges. A survey of the current state of NVN targets is to be done. DIA has been tasked with the job. The Agency will support DIA.

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Smith noted that the Vice President and his party which will be leaving for Manila on 27 December left town suddenly yesterday and went to Minnesota. Briefings for the Vice President are thus up in the air. We remain in contact with George Carroll and will do whatever we are asked.

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Smith initiated a discussion of problems arising from a proposal recently made by Secretary McNamara [REDACTED] working group on intelligence data and intelligence exchanges. [REDACTED] is attempting to take soundings with CIA to determine what steps should be taken in this regard. We had not previously been advised of the Secretary's proposal nor had Tom Hughes or Joe Carroll. Mr. Helms noted that it is not in the Agency's interest to develop a plan for extensive intelligence exchanges [REDACTED] Gross noted the problem of making this position stick in the light of political considerations. (See Action 1)

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[REDACTED] reported on a meeting yesterday between [REDACTED] of OCI and Bowdler of the White House staff concerning the [REDACTED] Bowdler invited advice on what policy actions might be undertaken. The OCI memo on the [REDACTED] situation was completed yesterday. Copies were tabled. Mr. Helms said he would look it over and a decision on the manner in which this is to be disseminated will be made later.

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Referring to the DCI's recent query about disseminating a memo on [REDACTED] Graham said a new and updated memo will be prepared and available on 2 or 3 January.

Kent reported a useful briefing and discussion yesterday in which Agency officers described for Fisher of ACDA and certain DOD representatives the status of intelligence capacities and limitations as they relate to disarmament.

Kent noted that he had but two papers for USIB consideration next week. One is the six-month projection of scheduled estimates, and the other is the quarterly supplement to the PNIO's. It was agreed that efforts would be made to get USIB concurrence without calling a formal USIB meeting. At A/DCI inquiry Kent said that the two NIE's on Turkey and Panama were approved by USIB this week.

Mr. Helms informed Kent of a call made to Helms by Rostow yesterday. Rostow had certain suggestions to improve NIE's. Mr. Helms had asked [REDACTED] of BNE to discuss this with Rostow. Kent was requested to see to it that [REDACTED] does this.

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25X1 ADD/S noted that restrictions on shipments of goods, household effects, etc., to [] have been lifted and shipments will now resume.

ADD/S noted current examination of ways of reducing regularly scheduled flight activity by CAT. An outgrowth of yesterday's meeting of the CAT Board of Directors is that Admiral Stump accompanied by ADD/S and [] will confer with Admiral Wright to seek his views on approaches to be made to the [] in dealing with this problem.

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In response to Mr. Helms' inquiry, deSilva explained that the Washington Post article this morning on intelligence inabilities in Vietnam is largely dead right and that U. S. military tactics and doctrine are largely responsible for the problem. (See Action 2)

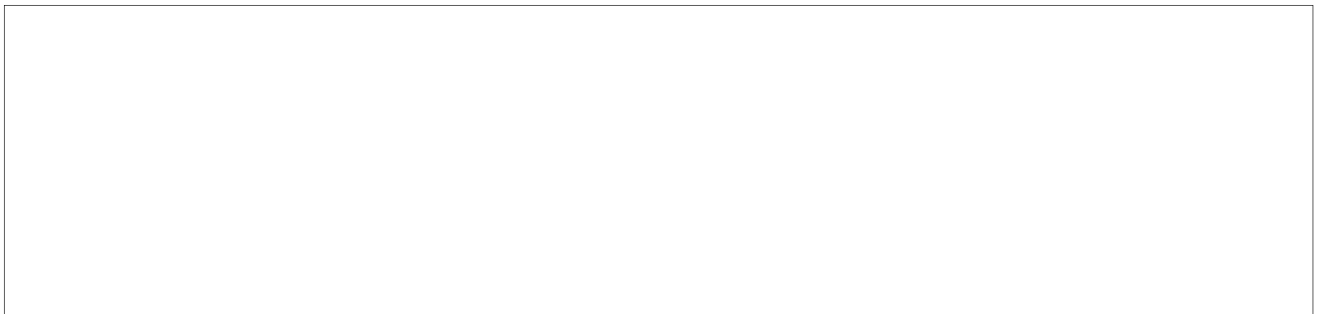
Houston reported that Senator Morse will not be back in the U. S. before tomorrow at the earliest. The Morse staff has been alerted to our willingness to meet with the Senator.

DD/P asked if there was anything new on arrangements to meet with Senator Robert Kennedy. The response was in the negative. (See Action 3)

25X1 Bross referred to the problem of the NSA Daily SIGINT Summary. [] told Bross that he feels obligated to show this publication to Secretary Vance and perhaps Secretary McNamara. [] belief is that the publication will irritate them and that they are likely to terminate it. It was noted that OCI is keeping a dossier on the nature of reporting in this publication. Mr. Helms stated that he felt there are too many intelligence publications throughout the Community and believed it the most advisable course of action to inform [] to go ahead and show it to Vance or McNamara.

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SECRET

ACTIONS:

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2. Noting that he had requested Jorgensen and the FE Division to prepare a progress report on identification of the Viet Cong as a follow-up report to Secretary Vance, Mr. Helms asked C/SAVA to ensure that this is done. It was noted that Jorgensen will return to Washington on 4 January. (C/SAVA by 15 January)

3. OGC is requested to remind Mr. Helms periodically of the desirability of meeting with Senator Robert Kennedy to discuss the [redacted] DD/P is requested to expedite a paper on [redacted] which the Africa Division is working out with the Department. The Senator had asked Mr. Helms about [redacted] recently. (DD/P - Status report by 10 January)

4. The Acting/DCI requested that word be passed in staff meetings to avoid the tendency to wait until the eve of a holiday period to send Agency papers and memos to higher echelons. This merely clogs the system. (All)

for [redacted]
L. K. White

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